Court may consider Amendment 2 appeal

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Associated Press

DENVER — The U.S. Supreme Court could decide soon, maybe as early as next week, whether to consider the constitutionality of Colorado's Amendment 2.

The constitutional amendment, approved by voters in 1992, would prohibit laws protecting gays from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The law has never taken effect, though, because of the legal battles surrounding it.

Last year, the Colorado Supreme Court struck down Amendment 2 in a decision that upheld a ruling by a state district court. The attorney general's office has appealed the 6-1 ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Colorado Attorney General Gale Norton said Friday she believes the justices will consider the issue of sexual orientation, and Amendment 2 could be the test case.

"There are some very strong reasons why they may take it," she said. "It is a case that clearly presents an important issue.

"On the other hand, they take very few cases," Norton added.

She said she just wants the issue to be settled. "The people of Colorado ought to have a clear answer one way or the other."

Jean Dubofsky, lead attorney for the foes of Amendment 2, said she believes the case already has been settled in Colorado. If the justices were to overturn lower court rulings that the measure is unconstitutional, she said the boycotts and bitterness that followed the 1992 election would return.

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>
> **Colorado Attorney General Gale Norton**

"We would rather they did not take it, but if they do, it may resolve gay rights issues in the country in a wide variety of contexts," Dubofsky said.

She said it is impossible to predict what will drive the justices' decision.

"This is the kind of case they've probably heard about before it got there," Dubofsky said. "But the court doesn't usually take the first case involving a particular issue. It usually waits for the issue to develop in more than one court and this is the first case in the country."

& ACADEMY (CENTRAL CS)

DEPART — 9:00 AM
DPT CASINO — 5:30 PM

DEPART — 2:30 PM
DPT CASINO — 10:30 PM

& ACADEMY (NORTHERN CS)

DEPART — 9:15 AM
DPT CASINO — 5:30 PM

DEPART — 2:45 PM
DPT CASINO — 10:30 PM

ODS ROAD (NORTH WEST CS)

DEPART — 9:30 AM
DPT CASINO — 5:30 PM

DEPART — 3:00 PM
DPT CASINO — 10:30 PM

/ALNUT (COLO. SPRINGS)

DEPART — 10:00 AM
DPT CASINO — 5:30 PM

DEPART — 3:40 PM
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